



September 2006

In this Issue:

- **Legislative Update**
- **News from the Heritage Areas**
- **News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas**
- **Conferences and Events**
- **Grants and Awards Opportunities**
- **Publications and Resources**
- **Other News**

Legislative Update

-Congress was in recess during the month of August and returns to Washington on September 5.

Upcoming Hearings

- **September 7** - House Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, 10:00 a.m. in Room 1324 Longworth, on H.R. 5485 - Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area Study. More information on this and other bills being heard is at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>

-For a list of the heritage area bills currently introduced and their current status, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/LEG/introbills109.pdf>

News from the Heritage Areas

-The **Schuylkill River National Heritage Area** is celebrating the beauty of the region through the work of regional artists during the *Scenes of the Schuylkill Juried Art Show*, which runs from September 8-October 27 at the Montgomery County Community College West Campus' new art gallery in Pottstown. The show features original works depicting scenes from the five-county Heritage Area (Schuylkill, Berks, Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia). A closing reception will be held on October 27. Viewers will have the opportunity to discover artists from across the Schuylkill River region and to see artistic renderings of many familiar places.

Just as waterfronts often play a crucial role in revitalization efforts, so, too, does the presence of art and the influx of artists. The exhibit's purpose is to stimulate awareness of regional artists, and in doing so, to foster an appreciation, through art, of the diverse attributes of the river and its communities. The 37 entries in this year's show include depictions of historic buildings, such as Fairmount Waterworks and Washington's Headquarters; as well as



paintings of bridges, natural landscapes and urban settings. For more information, visit <http://www.schuylkillriver.org>

News from the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)

-New ANHA Economic Impact Study Available--An important element of the work of National Heritage Areas is to draw in visitors to heritage sites, facilities, and other attractions. In 2005, five National Heritage Areas—Augusta Canal NHA in Georgia, the Delaware and Lehigh NHA and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley in Pennsylvania, and the Essex NHA in Massachusetts and the National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia—participated in a study to assess the characteristics of the visitors to their sites and estimate the impact of these visitors on the local economies.

These five heritage areas alone attracted more than 5.5 million tourists in 2005. An estimated 68.3 million visitors visited the entire 27 National Heritage Areas in the same year. The impact of this tourism activity is significant to the local economies of each region. ANHA recently published the findings of that study and copies may be purchased [\$1.50 per copy] by e-mailing your name, mailing address and number of copies requested to anha.cosgrove@adelphia.net

Conferences and Events

-On-line registration is now available for the **8th Cultural & Heritage Tourism Alliance National Conference, “Culture is the Spark”** to be held November 8-11, 2006 in Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://www.chtalliance.com/> to learn about the speakers, conference sessions and tours and to register.

-How to Start a Sustainable Tourism Program, a two-hour live broadcast (via webcast and satellite), sponsored by The Conservation Fund, will be held on September 21, 2006 from 2:00 - 4:00PM (EST) and will feature national tourism experts describing various methods and approaches for starting a sustainable tourism **project** at varying geographic scales. Through case studies, they will highlight the actual steps involved in establishing these projects, from the initial conversations and ideas to the step-by-step actions to the point where the project begins to produce results. Participants will hear on-the-ground practical advice for starting a sustainable tourism project and will have the opportunity to call in and seek advice from these national experts. This is the first in a series of National Sustainable Tourism broadcasts. For more information, visit The Conservation Fund website at <http://www.conservationfund.org>

On the day of the broadcast (9/21/06) you will be able to access the webcast from The Conservation Fund website at <http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=3263&back=true>

Grants and Awards Opportunities

-2007 Preserve America Presidential Awards Call for Nominations--The *Preserve America* Presidential Awards are part of a White House program to celebrate and preserve our national heritage. First Lady Laura Bush is Honorary Chair of *Preserve America*. Four *Preserve America* Presidential Awards are given each year at a White House ceremony—two

for projects or programs that advance heritage tourism and two for outstanding privately funded historic preservation projects or programs. Organizations, businesses, government entities, and individuals are eligible for an award. The deadline is **November 1**. More information is available at <http://www.preserveamerica.gov>

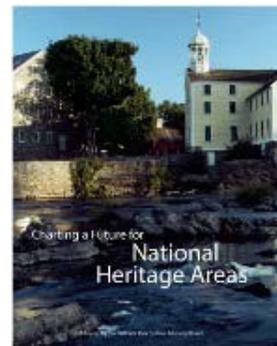
-Challenge Grants National Endowment for the Humanities--NEH Challenge Grants are offered only when NEH funds will make a significant improvement in humanities programs, help institutions carry out long-term plans for strengthening their basic resources and activities in the humanities, and enhance financial stability through increased nonfederal support. The deadline is November 1. More information is available at <http://www.neh.gov>

-NEH Digital Infrastructure Grants--National Endowment for the Humanities, new digital humanities initiative supports projects that utilize or study the impact of digital technology; guidelines online. The deadline is **November 1**. More information is available at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/challenge.html>

Publications and Resources

-Partners in Tourism is bringing back its quarterly newsletter, *Cultural Heritage Tourism News*. The summer 2006 issue is now available at <http://www.culturalheritagetourism.org> This issue includes new research on visitation at historic house museums, an update on the Civic Tourism conference that took place in Prescott, Arizona in April, cultural heritage tourism updates from federal and state programs and much more.

-The **National Park System Advisory Board** has released *Charting a Future for National Heritage Areas: A Report by the National Park System Advisory Board*. The 32-page report, designed by the National Geographic Society, highlights the accomplishments of the 27 existing National Heritage Areas. The report's findings and recommendations are the result of an almost two year review of National Heritage Areas headed by National Park System Advisory Board member Jerry Hruby, mayor of Brecksville, Ohio, in partnership with the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. To view an electronic version of the report, visit <http://www.nps.gov/policy/NHAreport.htm> For more information on the July 25th press conference, visit <http://inside.nps.gov/index.cfm?handler=viewnpsnewsarticle&type=Announcements&id=4660>



-The National Park Service recently published a new edition of **Federal Historic Preservation Laws** on line. To access the publication, visit http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/fhpl/index.htm

Other News

-The **Preserve America Summit** will mark the 40th anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act is scheduled for October 19-20 in New Orleans. The

summit will be led by Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States and Honorary Chair of the Preserve America program, in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The summit has 11 focus areas looking at major components of the national historic preservation program and making recommendations to advance historic preservation programs and national and international policy related to heritage conservation.

Several of the panels looking at the focus areas are seeking comments and suggestions. These include:

Building a Preservation Ethic and Public Appreciation for History—email comment to presestheticcomments@achp.gov **by September 8**

Determining What Is Important, email to crhdp_info@nps.gov **by September 7**

Participating in the Global Preservation Community, email garaoz@usicomos.org

-For more information, visit <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/06summitfacts.html>

-To learn more from the **NPS** visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/webforum/index.htm>

-**US/ICOMOS** provides information on the International panel at:

http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Special_Initiatives/Preserve_America_Summit/Preserve_America_Summitt_and_USICOMOS.htm

-Check out **History & Culture's** new look! The National Heritage Areas are currently providing content for the site new National Park Service website, and their pages will become live in the next few months. Keep checking the site for more and changing information on National Park Service programs, resources and information. Visit the new NPS Cultural Resources website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov>.

-From August to November, the 48 countries will be celebrating **European Heritage Days 2006**. Once a year for the past 15 years, European Heritage Days have provided the public with a rare opportunity to visit, free of charge, historic sites not typically open to the public and to participate in cultural events. In England, for example, from September 7-10, 2006, “Heritage Open Days” celebrates England's architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Buildings of every age, style and function, from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples, throw open their doors, for people to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life their local history and culture. The internet portal to European Heritage Days, from which you visit the websites of participating countries is http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_cooperation/heritage/ehd/ To learn more about **England's Doors Open Days**, visit <http://www.heritageopendays.org/>

-On October 7-8, 2006, in Beringen in Flanders, Belgium, volunteers from different European countries will gather to share experiences and forge relationships across borders during their first European industrial and technical heritage contact open weekend. The event is sponsored by E-FAITH, the **European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage** which promotes contacts and co-operation between non profit volunteer associations and offers a forum to meet, exchange experiences, learn from each other and

support each others' activities and campaigns. At the event, participants will also have the opportunity to visit the unique coalmining buildings on Beringen and the surroundings.

In every European country, work on Industrial and Technical Heritage largely depends on the initiatives and works of volunteers and volunteer NGOs. But for their efforts numerous important sites, objects and documents that tell of the birth and growth of industrial and technical society would have been lost forever, yet their idealistic and unpaid efforts are often undervalued by authorities and official institutes. Additional information on the **First European Industrial and Technical Heritage Weekend** is available from <http://www.e-faith.org> or can be requested by e-mail at 2006@e-faith.org

For more information on heritage areas, visit our [website](#).

-If you have heritage area news to share with the 650+ readers who receive this e-bulletin, please feel free to send it to the editor.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the interim editor at suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov
- Reach the National Coordinator of Heritage Areas at Brenda_Barrett@nps.gov
- Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov

Photo credit, page 1: Schuykill River Greenway Association